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Idaho Red Meat Production Down 22 Percent From Last Year

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for July 2006 totaled 21.7 million pounds, down 22 percent from last year according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. July production was down 17 percent from the 26.2 million pounds produced in June. Accumulated red meat production for the January-July 2006 period totaled 169.3 million pounds, down 12.4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in July, up 5 percent from the 3.61 billion pounds produced in July 2005. Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from July 2005. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from the previous year, at 1,272 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.0 million pounds, 4 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 57,900 head, down 1 percent from July 2005. The average live weight was 10 pounds below last year, at 340 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.88 million head, 3 percent above July 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 265 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.2 million pounds, was down 1 percent from July 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,100 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago. January to July 2006 commercial red meat production was 27.1 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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